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Atty. Dkt. No. ATT/2003-0109

**IN THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for acquiring caller-specific information, said method comprising ~~the steps of~~:
  - receiving a call for completion from a calling party;
  - querying a local cache for caller-specific information associated with said calling party;
  - obtaining said caller-specific information from said local cache if said caller-specific information is found in said local cache; and
  - forwarding said caller-specific information to complete said call; and
  - querying a remote database if said caller-specific information is not found in said local cache, wherein said querying said remote database is performed by said local cache over a signaling network different from a communication network carrying said call.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said caller-specific information is a calling name of said calling party.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1, further comprising the ~~step of~~:
  - obtaining said caller-specific information from said remote database.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, further comprising ~~the step of~~:
  - storing said caller-specific information obtained from said remote database in said local cache.

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6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising ~~the step~~ of:

defining a limited period of time wherein said caller-specific information obtained from said remote database is to be stored in said local cache.

7. (Canceled).

8. (Canceled).

9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for acquiring caller-specific information, said apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a call for completion from a calling party;

means for querying a local cache for caller-specific information associated with said calling party;

means for obtaining said caller-specific information from said local cache if said caller-specific information is found in said local cache; ~~and~~

means for forwarding said caller-specific information to complete said call; and

means for querying a remote database if said caller-specific information is not found in said local cache, wherein said means for querying said remote database is performed by said local cache over a signaling network different from a communication network carrying said call.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein said apparatus is a switch.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) ~~[[An]]~~ A system for acquiring caller-specific information, said system comprising:

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a local cache for querying a remote database if caller-specific information is not found in said local cache over a signaling network different from a communication network carrying a call; and

at least one switch for receiving [[a]] said call for completion from a calling party, wherein said at least one switch queries said local cache for said caller-specific information associated with said calling party, and wherein said at least one switch obtains said caller-specific information from said local cache if said caller-specific information is found in said local cache and forwards said caller-specific information to complete said call.

13. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of instructions, the plurality of instructions including instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the steps a method comprising of:

receiving a call for completion from a calling party;

querying a local cache for caller-specific information associated with said calling party;

obtaining said caller-specific information from said local cache if said caller-specific information is found in said local cache; and

forwarding said caller-specific information to complete said call; and

querying a remote database if said caller-specific information is not found in said local cache, wherein said querying said remote database is performed by said local cache over a signaling network different from a communication network carrying said call.

14. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 13, wherein said caller-specific information is a calling name of said calling party.

15. (Canceled)

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16. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim ~~[[15]]~~ 13, further comprising ~~the step of~~:  
obtaining said caller-specific information from said remote database.
17. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 16, further comprising ~~the step of~~:  
storing said caller-specific information obtained from said remote database in said local cache.
18. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 17, further comprising ~~the step of~~:  
defining a limited period of time wherein said caller-specific information obtained from said remote database is to be stored in said local cache.
19. (Canceled).
20. (Canceled).